

# **POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

**Oliver Administration Building**

## **Present**

**Subcommittee: Marjorie McBride, Chair, Diana Campbell and John Saviano**

**School Committee and Administration: Edward Mara, Melinda Thies and Jane Correia**

**Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: John Saviano motioned to approve the minutes to the May 7, August 6, November 5 and November 26, 2007 meetings; Diana Campbell seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0. Marjorie McBride recused herself from the vote because she was not present at some of these meetings.**

**Public Comment - None**

## **Student Behavior Outside of School Events/Property**

**Melinda Thies reported that Attorney Henneous felt such a policy would be in the realm of protecting students, however, there are concerns about the District imposing punishments such as community service or social suspension and the student ultimately not being convicted. John Gray, Principal of Barrington High School, is in the process of revising their policy which now relates to student leaders and student athletes in the form of deprivation of privileges. Ed Mara reported that of the few districts that have such a policy, most are directed toward student athletes. John Saviano learned, through RIASC, that a number of districts are updating their policies from just athletic to athletic and social situations, but there is a great deal of concern about how to handle situations that occur over the summer and the burden this places on staff. Diana Campbell said that some kids are inclined to confess and if we set the policy we will not have an issue.**

**The Committee further discussed the burden of investigating reports, involvement of the SRO, having parents and students sign an agreement about behavior at extra curricular activities and consequences, crossing into the personal rights of students, and other legal issues.**

**Marjorie McBride said the student handbooks are also being reviewed; she feels they should include rules about participation in things like band being contingent upon maintaining certain academic**

levels. John Saviano also reported issues at the high school since the beginning of the year with student use of Ipods and wearing hats and hoods—they are requesting permission for use in the cafeteria during lunch and while passing in the hallways. Evidently, the rules in place are not being enforced consistently by the staff. Discussion followed about such things being privileges that can be lost, about music being a catalyst for learning, and music also being a distraction and a safety issue in some situations.

It was felt that handbook revisions should include input from the students, as well as the teachers. Marj McBride and Dr. Mara would like to meet with building administrators during the afternoons beginning in March. These small meetings will take place first, followed by a roll out in a public session. Marj McBride asked that handbooks from all the schools be provided to the Subcommittee, as well as policies on participation in extra curricular activities and discipline policies. Administrators will be asked to review those of the other schools. The ultimate goal is consistency across the District.

### **Policy HE School Committee Negotiating Agents**

In light of the formation and make-up of the current BWEA Contract Negotiation Subcommittee, this policy must be either suspended or revised. After discussion it was agreed to make the following revisions:

- **Add—“In the event of a conflict of interest by a member of the Subcommittee, the member will request of the Chair, an alternate be appointed.”**
- **“Manager of Business Affairs” changed to “Director of Administration and Finance”**

**The first reading will be on February 11 and the second on February 25.**

### **Buildings and Grounds Policies**

**Policies EC Buildings and Grounds Management and ECB Buildings and Grounds Maintenance contain the word “schoolhouses.” To bring them up to date, “schoolhouses” will be changed to “facilities” throughout and the Director of Administration’s title will be corrected to include “and Finance.” Recommended for first reading on February 11.**

### **Procurement (DJ, DJC, DJC-E and DJC-R)**

**To clarify any misinterpretations and assure involvement of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee when appropriate and necessary, some revisions will be made to the procurement policies. Also, the need for architectural services and a project manager, on retainer or on a case-by-case basis, must be addressed. The Committee agreed we have unfairly relied on the knowledge and skill of Paul Brule,**

maybe to the point of abuse. Jane and Ed feel George Simmons has a respectable level of expertise in this field. Also, it is good to preserve in policy these lessons learned because in four to six years, the make up of the Board can be very different.

Jane Correia asked that further discussion be tabled to give her more time to review in detail. Ed Mara stated that despite rumors that Administration asked Lou Torrado to inflate the Kickemuit Tech Space project to the \$400,000 level, he had no such conversations with Lou or anyone else.

Briefly discussed was Bristol's comprehensive plan and the desire for an elementary school on Metacom Avenue. John Saviano suggested that land owners be approached offering to purchase half the acreage needed (approximately 15 in total) and requesting a donation of the other half.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:35 PM, John Saviano and Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn; Marjorie McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca